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the word *Hoodoo* is used to signify a person or thing whose influence brings good luck is in error. After many inquiries, I find that, in this locality (New York city), *Hoodoo* has the opposite meaning, namely, to bring *bad luck*. — *L. F. Vance, New York, N. Y.*

FAIRIES, DWARFS, AND GIANTS. — The writer has found no traces of a belief in fairies among those Siouan tribes whose customs and mythology he has been studying. But the Omahas and Ponkas tell of a race of "little people," the *Gada'zhe*, or *Ni'kashi"ga Ma'n'tanaha* (Wild People), who can produce wounds *under* (and without breaking) the skin. They also have stories of giants, and of beings with very large heads. The latter reside in the forests, and cause a peculiar form of insanity to seize the unfortunate Indian men whom they encounter, one at a time, away from the people and lodges. — *F. O. D.*

FAIRIES. — The fairies who figure in the folk-lore of every European nation also exist in the mythologies of the American Indians, but have not been studied there to any extent. When we know more about them we can decide whether "fairies" is the right name for these products of Indian imagination. Some of them inspire terror, while others are innocuous or beneficial to mankind. The Creek Indians, once in Alabama and Georgia, now in the Indian Territory, call them *i'sti lupa'tski*, or "little people," but distinguish two sorts, the one being longer, the others shorter, in stature. The taller ones are called, from this very peculiarity, *i'sti tsal-petsagi*; the shorter, or dwarfish ones, subdivide themselves again into (*a*) *itu'-uf-as'a'ki* and (*b*) *i'sti tsa'htsa'na*. Both are archaic terms, no longer understood by the present generation, but *itu'-uf* means "in the woods," and the whole designation of (*a*) probably signifies "found in the deep forest." The *i'sti tsa'htsa'na* are the cause of a crazed condition of mind, which makes Indians run away from their lodges. No others can see these last-mentioned little folks except the Indians who are seized in this manner by a sudden craze. The Klamath Indians of Oregon know of a *dwarf*, *na'hni'as*, whose tracks are sometimes seen in the snow. Only those initiated into conjurer's mysteries can see him. His footprints are not larger than those of a babe, and the name points to a being which swings the body from one side to the other when walking. It is doubtful if this genius can be brought under the category of the fairies. — *A. S. Gatschet, Washington, D. C.*

HUMAN BONES. — Among certain primitive nations the bones of the deceased are preserved with a peculiar religious care, and considered sacred. The Cha'hta formerly had special men, whose nails had grown long, appointed to disinter bodies buried for several months or a year, to scratch off with their hands the flesh still adhering, and then to deposit the bones, done up in a new mat, in the bone-house, of which there was one in every town. How far this custom extended through North America is not easy to state, but we find it among the Santees, Nanticokes, Mohawks, and, west of the Mississippi River, among the Shetimashas of Southern Louisiana.